

WASHINGTON, DC - U.S. Congressman Mike Pence was awarded the AgriBank District Council's Distinguished Service Award for his "leadership on issues facing the Farm Credit System, as well as agriculture and rural America." Each year since 2004, the AgriBank District Council has chosen one U.S. Senator and one U.S. Representative on a bipartisan basis-award recipients must be approved by a vote of the full board. Congressman Pence is the second Hoosier to win this award; Senator Richard Lugar won the award in 2005.



Congressman Pence receives the Distinguished Service Award from Ed Yanos as Armin Apple looks on

Background:

The Farm Credit System (FCS) is a nationwide financial cooperative created by Congress in 1916 to provide American agriculture with a dependable source of credit. FCS is the largest provider of competitively priced agriculture credit in the United States, serving over 500,000 farmers, rural homeowners, agriculture cooperatives, and agribusinesses across the nation.

Based in Louisville, Kentucky, the Farm Credit Services of Mid-America serves more than 85,000 customer-members throughout Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and Tennessee. Farm Credit Services of Mid-America is backed by \$16 billion in owned and managed loan assets and has 92 local offices and more than 850 employees. Loans can be made available for farm real estate financing, operating loans, and equipment and livestock loans.

Farm producers, owners of agricultural land, and those involved in the manufacture of agriculture products are all eligible for financing and over 19,000 Hoosiers have turned to FCS for their rural financing needs. With 26 branch offices in Indiana alone, Hoosier farmers are well served among the nationwide network of private sector cooperatives that comprise the FCS.

Unlike commercial banks, Farm Credit System institutions do not take deposits. Instead, loanable funds are raised through the sale of Systemwide bonds and notes in capital markets. These funds are then channeled back to rural America through a nationwide network of Farm Credit lending institutions.